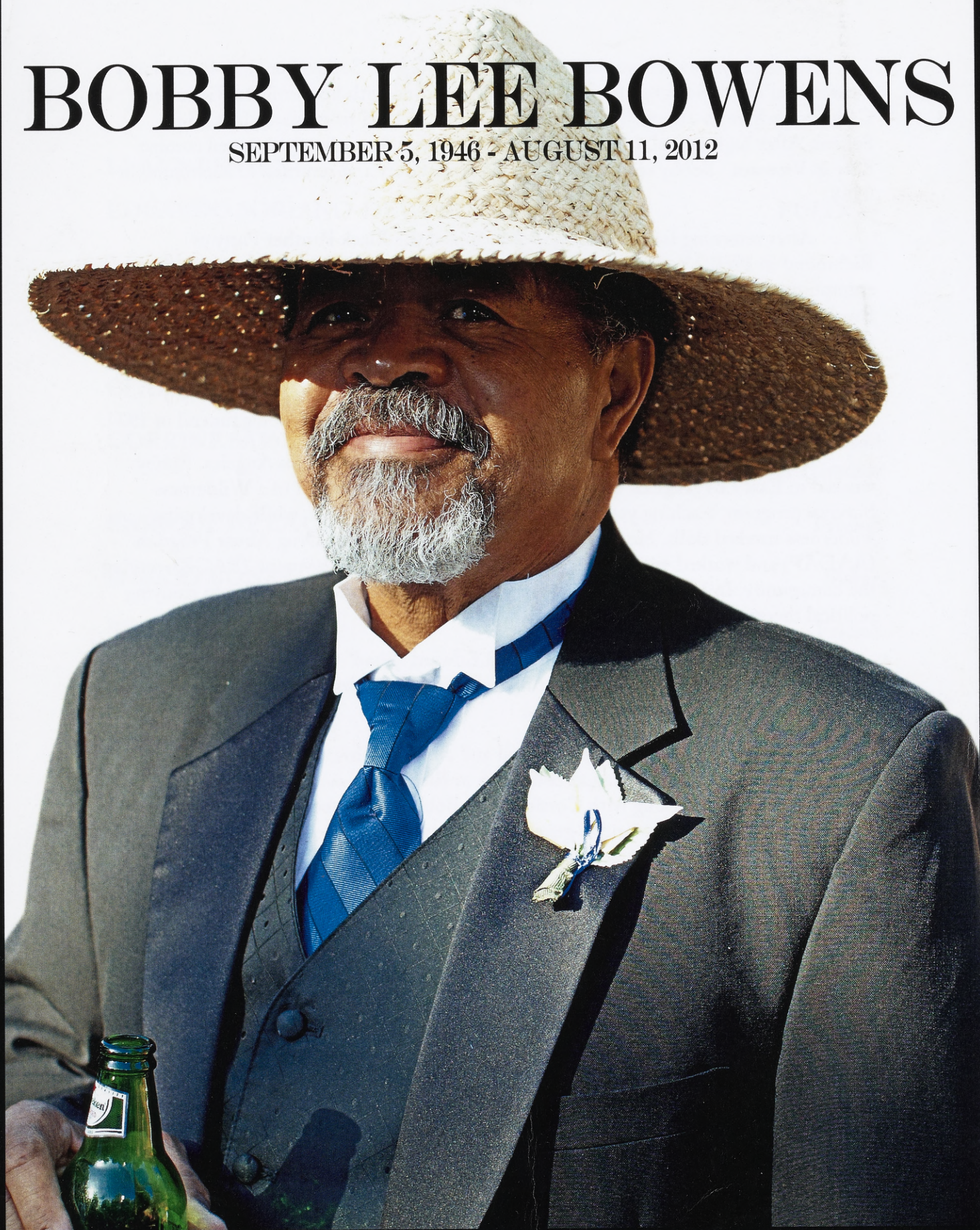


BOBBY LEE BOWENS

SEPTEMBER 5, 1946 - AUGUST 11, 2012



Bobby Lee Bowens was born in Bakersfield, CA on September 5, 1946 to Nancy Jackson and Mack Bowens. Soon after birth, he moved with his family to Richmond, California where he attended school and graduated in 1965 from Harry Ells High School. After high school, he joined the Army and was immediately assigned combat duty in Vietnam. Bobby served two years in combat duty and returned to Richmond in 1968.

After returning from Vietnam, Bobby joined the Black Panther Party of Richmond in 1968. Working with the Black Panther Party, Bobby was active in the community, speaking at Political Education classes and helping to start a number of Free Breakfast Programs and Liberation Schools. In 1971, he worked with the Central Committee to hold a free shoe give away in North Richmond where hundreds came out. He and Billy X Jennings a.k.a. BJ were both line captains for the Bill Boyette Boycott. From the Boycott, Bobby became close to Raymond "Maasai" Hewitt and the two remained close friends. Bobby was a pallbearer for George Jackson at his funeral in 1971.

Bobby left the Black Panther Party in 1971 and moved to Los Angeles. Bobby worked in East Los Angeles with youth rival gang members as part of a Wilderness Survival program, teaching youth to cooperate and work as a team while developing wilderness survival skills. He also worked with Asian American Drug Abuse Program (AADAP) and worked with Pacific Asian Consortium in Employment (PACE), serving the community. In Los Angeles, he worked with the Sunday Morning Group studying political theory and education.

Bobby was father to Mark Bowen and Edward "Jihad" Caston. In 1979, he married Lillian Tamoria and fathered three more children, Bryan Bowen, Leann Bowen, and Larisa Bowen.

In 1989, Bobby moved to Richmond and continued his work in the community. He dedicated his time to helping at risk youth in Richmond, coordinating a wilderness camping program. Working with Corrine Sain, Bobby connected Richmond's youth with the elderly in an attempt to bridge generational gaps within the community.

Bobby began his work with Needle Exchange and HIV prevention in 1992, working with Opportunity West. Bobby's work was dedicated to improving the health of Richmond and reducing the incidence of disease caused by intravenous drug use. Through Bobby's work and the perseverance of the program throughout the bay area, the incidence of HIV declined significantly. In 1995, Bobby took over the exchange in Richmond and dedicated his life to the Needle Exchange program until his death.

Bobby was inspiration to the community and friend to its residents. His compassion and drive to help those in need is a legacy that will be remembered with deep gratitude and love.

MEMORIAL

LEANN BOWEN

MC

EDUARDO SORIANO-HEWITT

EULOGY

IN REMEMBRANCE

CLARK BAILEY

Friend, Fellow Black Panther Party Member

CORRINE SAIN

Friend, Richmond Neighborhood
House Senior Center Director

ENRIQUE DE LA CRUZ

Friend

SHERRY BONEY

Sister

BRUCE WILLIAMS

Friend

TANYA KHEMET

Friend

BRYAN BOWEN

Son

LARISA BOWEN

Daughter

LEANN BOWEN

Daughter

FRIENDS AND FAMILY - TWO MINUTES PLEASE



THANK YOU

We would like to thank friends and family for all of the support you have shown Bobby and his family. It was through your concern and caring words we were able to endure through such a trying time. We have seen the love and friendship you shared with Bobby returned to us during this time and we thank you.

Bobby leaves behind his mother Nancy Hart, his sisters Sherry Boney and Loretta Williams of Vacaville, CA. Their love and continued support of Bobby and his family was and is unmatched. He also leaves behind numerous nieces, nephews and grandchildren.

MEMORIAL SERVICE

August 18, 2012

City of Richmond Recreation Center

3230 Macdonald Avenue

Richmond, CA 94804

